

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 00461 01 OF 02 210756Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 ACDA-12 EB-08
TRSE-00 /086 W
-----098398 210835Z /11

O R 201950Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4611
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION US BERLIN
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USNATO
USIA WASHDC
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BELGRADE 461

FOR EUR/RPM AND EUR/SOV FROM USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CSCE/OCON
SUBJECT: BELGRADE CSCE -- DAILY HIGHLIGHTS, JANUARY 20

SUMMARY: DRAFTING WORK REMAINED BLOCKED AS SOVIETS
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PAGE 02 BELGRA 00461 01 OF 02 210756Z

CONTINUED TO INSIST THAT THERE IS NEITHER SUFFICIENT
TIME NOR WILL FOR MEETING TO AGREE TO ANYTHING MUCH
MORE SUBSTANTIAL THAN THEIR BRIEF, ONE-SIDED CONCLUDING
DOCUMENT TEXT. IN EFFORT TO BREAK DEADLOCK, ALLIED AND
NEUTRAL/NON-ALIGNED HEADS OF DELEGATION HAVE WORKED
OUT SCENARIO FOR SERIES OF INFORMAL CONTACT GROUPS
IN WHICH LATTER WOULD SEEK TO BROKER EAST-WEST

POSITIONS INTO ACCEPTABLE, SUBSTANTIVE COMPROMISES
(DETAILS SEPTEL. END SUMMARY.

1. PLEANARY -- SOVIETS AGAIN TOOK ON THE CONFERENCE, INSISTING THAT DRAFT THEY INTRODUCED JANUARY 17 PROVIDES ONLY REALISTIC BASIS FOR A CONCLUDING DOCUMENT. IN COURSE OF DEBATE, THEY AND THEIR ALLIES PERSISTENTLY DOWNGRADED IMPORTANCE OF BELGRADE MEETING, CONTRASTING RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL OF ITS REPRESENTATION WITH LEVEL AT WHICH FINAL ACT WAS SIGNED, AND STRESSED IMPOSSIBILITY OF RECONCILING OPPOSING VIEWS ON NEW PROPOSALS IN NEXT MONTH. WESTERN, NEUTRAL/NON-ALIGNED AND ROMANIAN REPS AGAIN ARGUED FOR FURTHER EFFORTS TO PRODUCE POLITICALLY MEANINGFUL, SUBSTANTIVE DOCUMENT.

2. AUSTRIAN REP INTRODUCED FOLLOWING BRIEF PROPOSAL (BM/71) DESIGNED TO UP GRADE LEVEL OF NEXT SIMILAR MEETING: BEGIN TEXT: THE AUSTRIAN DELEGATION PROPOSES TO HOLD THE NEXT MEETING OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PARTICIPATING STATES OF THE CSCE ON THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL. END TEXT. PREVIEWING POSITION THEY CAN BE EXPECTED TO TAKE IN FOLLOW-UP DRAFTING GROUP, SOVIETS SAID THAT DECISION ON LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION CAN ONLY BE TAKEN AT PREPARATORY MEETING, NO BELGRADE.

3. DC6 -- GROUP RAN UP AGAINST BY NOW FAMILIAR SOVIET INSISTENCE THAT ALL DRAFTING SHOULD PROCEED ON BASIS OF CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BELGRA 00461 01 OF 02 210756Z

DE MINIMIS SOVIET CONCLUDING DOCUMENT TEXT AS SOON AS IT ATTEMPTED TO MOVE INTO SUBSTANTIVE LANGUAGE ON GENERAL POLITICAL CONCLUSIONS SECTION OF NEUTRAL/NON-ALIGNED PAPER (BM/65). SOVIETS, BACKED BY USUAL COTERIE, ARGUED THAT SECOND PARA OF SOVIET PAPER REFLECTED ALL THAT COULD BE AGREED FROM FIRST THREE PARAS AND NINTH PARA OF NEUTRAL/NON-ALIGNED PAPER (RELATIONSHIP OF FINAL ACT TO DETENTE AND STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION). THEY ALSO OBJECTED TO BM/65; LANGUAGE AS TOO SOLEMN FOR A CONCLUDING DOCUMENT TO ISSUE FROM A MEETING HELD AT A MUCH LOWER POLITICAL LEVEL THAN HELSINKI SUMMIT. WESTERN AND NEUTRAL/NON-ALIGNED DELS FAILED REPEATEDLY TO DRAW THEM INTO SERIOUS DRAFTING. YUGOSLAV REP GAVE PARTICULARLY STRONG STATEMENT ON NEED FOR ALL DELS TO WORK FOR MEANINGFUL, SUBSTANTIVE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT. ROMANIAN REP ALSO SOUGHT TO MOVE DRAFTING FORWARD. EARLIER, GROUP COMPLETED FIRST RUN-THROUGH OF FACTUAL PARAGRAPHS IN BM/65, LEAVING UNRESOLVED ONLY A FEW CHARACTERIZATIONS OF MEETING'S ATMOSPHERE WHICH ALL AGREED COULD BE MORE EASILY RESOLVED WHEN DELS HAD BETTER PICTURE OF MEETING'S RESULTS.

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 00461 02 OF 02 210827Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BELGRADE 461

4. BASKET ONE (CMBS) -- WARSAW PACT DELS CONTINUED TO
OBSTRUCT ANY SERIOUS DRAFTING WORK. ALTHOUGH SWISS AND
AUSTRIAN REPS INDICATED THEIR AGREEMENT WITH UK COMPOSITE
TEXT ON EXCHANGE OF OBSERVERS AS BASIS FOR DRAFTING,
DISCUSSION SOON FOUNDERED UPON INSISTENCE BY WARSAW
PACT MEMBERS (POLAND, CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND GDR) THAT
PROPOSAL WOULD AMEND FINAL ACT AND UPSET ITS DELICATE
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PAGE 02 BELGRA 00461 02 OF 02 210827Z

BALANCE, AND THEREFORE COULD NOT BE DISCUSSED ON ITS

SUBSTANTIVE MERITS. CANADIAN REP COUNTERED THAT SUCH A RESTRICTIVE APPROACH TO WORK OF BELGRADE MEETING ON CBMS WOULD GIVE WESTERN PUBLICS REASON TO WONDER ABOUT WISDOM OF CONTINUING EFFORTS AT FURTHERING MILITARY DETENTE. YUGOSLAV DELEGATE, ON PART OF NEUTRAL/NON-ALIGNED (NNA) THEN INTRODUCED A COMPOSITE TEXT ON NOTIFICATION OF MAJOR MILITARY MOVEMENTS (SEPTEL), INCORPORATING ROMANIAN COMPOSITE TEXT (BELGRADE 0412) AS FIRST PARAGRAPH AND ELEMENTS OF FORMAL ROMANIAN, NNA AND ALLIED CMBS PROPOSALS (BM/S/1, BM/6 AND BM/11). A LARGE NUMBER OF ALLIED AND NNA DELS GAVE THEIR ASSENT TO THE FIRST PARAGRAPH OF THIS TEXT, CONTINGENT UPON AGREEMENT UPON AGREEMENT UPON THE REST, BUT SOVIETS AND THEIR ALLIES BLOCKED ALL EFFORTS ON SEGMENTIAL DRAFTING. THEY ARGUED THAT TEXT MUST BE CONSIDERED AS A WHOLE, NOT LINE BY LINE, BUT AT THE SAME TIME REFUSED ALL INVITATIONS TO STATE THEIR VIEW OF IT AS A WHOLE. IN THIS ALICE-IN-WONDERLAND ATMOSPHERE, THIRD CMB DRAFTING SESSION ENDED WITH NOT A SINGLE LINE HAVING YET BEEN DRAFTED.

5. BASKET TWO -- AT SUGGESTION OF SWISS DELEGATE, DRAFTING GROUP CONSIDERED SUMMARY VERSION OF BM/27 DEALING WITH SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED FIRMS CONTAINED IN EC COMPOSITE TEXT. EASTERN DELEGATIONS RESISTED ACTUAL DRAFTING ON THIS PROPOSAL, PRESSING INSTEAD FOR CONSIDERATION OF POLISH PROPOSAL ON TRADE POLICY ISSUES (BM/E/5). HOWEVER, AFTER CONTINUED PRESSURE FROM WESTERN DELEGATES, SOVIETS AGREED TO ACCEPT FOLLOWING REVISED TEXT FOR CONSIDERATION DURING THE WEEKEND AND DISCUSSION AT NEXT DRAFTING GROUP MEETING:

BEGIN TEXT: BEGIN BRACKETS THEY END BRACKETS
WILL SEEK TO FACILITATE THE PARTICIPATION OF SMALL
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PAGE 03 BELGRA 00461 02 OF 02 210827Z

AND MEDIUM SIZED FIRMS IN THEIR TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION AND TO THAT END WILL IMPROVE BY ALL POSSIBLE MEANS THE FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE CONDITIONS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT REPRESENTATIONS BY THESE FIRMS. END TEXT.

6. BASKET THREE -- INFORMAL SESSION AGAIN ENDED IN STALEMATE AS EAST REFRAINED FROM SERIOUS DRAFTING. DISCUSSION OF TWO COMMON POINTS IN INFORMATIVE NON-PAPERS, COOPERATION AMONG PRESS AGENCIES AND FURTHER DISSEMINATION OF FINAL ACT, WAS EFFECTIVELY DEADLOCKED BY GDR REP'S REFUSAL TO CONSIDER ANY SUGGESTED CHANGES IN HIS TEXT. FRENCH DEL'S FELEIBILITY ON SPECIFIC WORKING IN FRENCH NON-PAPER DID NOT LESSEN GDR'S RESISTANCE TO PROPOSED REFORMULATIONS. INITIAL FORMAL SESSION, WESTERN AND NEUTRAL AGUMENTS STRESSING

NEED FOR SUBSTANTIVE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT WERE REJECTED
BY SOVIET AND GDR REPS WHO TOOK FAMILIAR POSITION THAT
BM/70 WAS ONLY ACCEPTABLE BASIS FOR DRAFTING. SOVIET AND GDR
DELS REITERATED IMPOSSIBILITY OF CONTINUING WORK BEYOND
FEBRUARY 10 DEADLINE.
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